

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04280 010625Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W
----- 005949

R 010554Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6063
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4280

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: AS, IS, PFOR, PDIP
SUBJECT: NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

REF: CANBERRA 3960

1. ON JUNE 12 THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD J. SMITH AS THE NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL. SMITH, AGED 40, IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT. HE JOINED THE AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1961 AND HAS SERVED IN NEW DELHI, WASHINGTON, AND GENEVA. HIS MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT WAS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF DFA'S INTERNATIONAL LEGAL BRANCH. SMITH IS A PLEASANT INDIVIDUAL AND A COMPETENT OFFICER WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY FROM HIS WORK ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS. HE IS CAUTIOUS AND THOROUGH BUT DOES NOT IMPRESS US AS A PERSON WHO IS PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL OR INCLINED TO TAKE INITIATIVES ON HIS OWN. HIS RELATIVE YOUTH AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE, COUPLED WITH RECENT AUSTRALIAN MOVES TOWARDS THE PLO (SEE REFTEL), INDICATE THAT AUSTRALIA PLANS TO KEEP ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL ON A COOL, CORRECT, AND RELATIVELY FORMAL LEVEL.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER04280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-0473
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750793/aaaadedyd.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 3960
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AS, IS, (SMITH, RICHARD J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006